

**A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON  
THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY**

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*July 1985*

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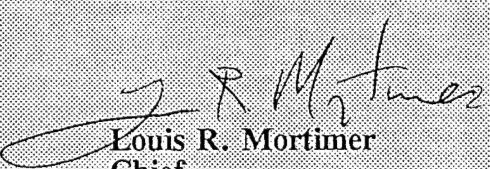
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## PREFACE

This bibliography provides selective annotations of open-source material and covers the following topics:

- modernization of the North Korean Army,
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics in the Korean War, and
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics since the Korean War.

The bibliography incorporates serials and monographs received in the previous month and is part of a continuing series on the above subjects.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Library of Congress call numbers, where appropriate, are included to facilitate the recovery of works cited.

## **GLOSSARY**

CPLA	Chinese People's Liberation Army
CFC	Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
NKA	North Korean Army
NKAF	North Korean Air Force
NKN	North Korean Navy
KPA	Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN)
KWP	Korean Workers' Party
ROK	Republic of Korea (South Korea)
ROKA	Republic of Korea Army
ROKAF	Republic of Korea Air Force
ROKN	Republic of Korea Navy

1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

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Choi, Young. "The North Korean Military Buildup and its Impact on North Korean Military Strategy in the 1980s." Asian Survey (Berkeley, California), vol. 23, no. 3, March 1985, pp. 341-355. DS1.A492

North Korea's military buildup in recent years has given its military strategists a number of options from which to choose should North Korean leaders decide to invade South Korea. The author maintains that if North Korea takes Seoul, it will "paralyze the command" of the opposition in the same way North Vietnam achieved success in 1975. North Korea has the capability to attack several places simultaneously and can be expected to use conventional and nonconventional tactics. The author does not credit North Korea with the capability to airlift or sealift large units to points far south of the DMZ.

Cordesman, Anthony. "The Military Balance in Northeast Asia: The Challenge to Japan and Korea." Armed Forces Journal International (Washington, D.C.), December 1983, pp. 27-37. U1.A66

Although North Korea lacks high technology weaponry, its military modernization has enabled it to field a well-trained army that is sufficiently equipped to pose a threat to South Korea. All North Korean Army units are said to stress ranger-type tactics and night operations in their training programs. The author considers US forces in South Korea essential to deter North Korean aggression.

Cotter, Donald and Wikner, N. "Korea: Force Imbalances and Remedies." Strategic Review (Cambridge, Massachusetts), vol. 10, no. 2, spring 1982, pp. 63-70. U162.S76

North Korea's military modernization program has enabled it to come close to meeting the offense-to-defense ratios which current Soviet military doctrine stipulates is necessary for a successful offensive strategy. The authors believe that in an invasion of the South, North Korea would follow Soviet military doctrine to achieve three objectives: the penetration of South Korean and US defenses along the DMZ, the temporary isolation of the Korean peninsula, and the destruction of key military and civilian targets in the enemy's rear areas. In order to assure a successful defense, South Korea and the United States need to increase artillery and antitank assets, and C<sup>3</sup> capabilities.

Jacobs, G. "Armed Forces of the Koreas." Asian Defence Journal (Kuala Lumpur), November 1982, pp. 12-31. UA830.A8

Given the narrowness of the Korean peninsula and the mountainous terrain of sectors likely to be used by North Korea during an invasion of the South, the author believes that the quality and quantity of infantry forces will be important determinants of the outcome of another conflict in Korea. The composition of current North Korean forces suggests that Pyongyang is following Soviet guidelines which call for massing superior infantry, armor, and artillery assets in areas that are most suitable for offensive operations. North Korea's long-range artillery is pre-positioned in well-fortified bunkers close to the DMZ and is considered to be more than adequate to soften South Korean and US forward defensive

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positions. North Korea's advantage at some places along the DMZ, assuming that South Korea and the United States lack sufficient warning time to react to an imminent invasion, could run as high as 12:1 given current force levels.

Lee, Young-ho. "Military Balance and Peace in the Korean Peninsula." Asian Survey (Berkeley, California), vol. 21, no. 8, August 1981, pp. 852-864.  
DS1.A492

The author argues that US forces in South Korea will be needed for the foreseeable future because North Korea has outproduced South Korea in almost every category of military equipment over the last 2 decades. The author's calculations are based on data released by the US Department of Defense and US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in 1978 and 1979.

Niksich, Larry. "North Korea." In Fighting Armies. Edited by Richard A. Gabriel. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1983, pp. 103-106.  
UA10.N66

North Korea has positioned 50 percent of its army close to the DMZ and has carried out all of the preparations necessary to begin an all-out invasion of South Korea. An invasion scenario would probably develop along these lines: First, North Korea would mass overwhelmingly superior forces at two or three decisive points along the DMZ. Second, North Korean heavy guns and multiple rocket launchers would hit preselected targets at the anticipated points of breakthrough. Simultaneously, 20,000 to 40,000 commandos would be deployed to disrupt South Korean and US capabilities to react to the invasion. Third, tanks would lead an attack that would attempt to outflank South Korean forces and take Seoul. North Korea has enough manpower to provide a second echelon in support of the attack on Seoul, if necessary.

"N. Korea Builds 100 Underground Bunkers Along DMZ: Washington Times." Hankuk Ilbo (Seoul), 3 May 1985, in Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 3 May 1985, pp. 1-2.

A South Korean newspaper, citing the Washington Times, says that in recent months North Korea's deployment of forces closer to the DMZ has reduced the time South Korean and US forces would have to prepare for an imminent attack from North Korea to about 6 hours.

"North Korean Threat Builds Up Against the ROK." Jane's Defence Weekly (London), 23 March 1985, p. 475. UF530.J35

North Korea has recently enhanced its capability to attack South Korea with little or no warning by moving additional army units closer to the DMZ and at the same time has improved weapons and equipment assigned to forward units. According to US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense James Kelly, North Korea continues to construct new military installations just north of the DMZ; to add river crossing and mechanized infantry units to the four forward corps; and to increase the self-propelled artillery assets of its armored and mechanized divisions. Kelly made these observations during a Congressional hearing on 1986 security assistance to South Korea.

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Rhee, Sang-Woo. "Implications of Eroding Super-Power Balance in East Asia." Korea and World Affairs (Seoul) vol. 8, no. 1, spring 1984, pp. 72-103. DS916.6.K67

A South Korean Government report credits North Korea with 30 infantry divisions, 4 motorized rifle divisions, 5 independent infantry regiments, and 29 special mission brigades. South Koreans are most concerned about the offensive composition and deployment of these forces. The author maintains that North Korea has the capability to infiltrate 15,700 of its special mission personnel into South Korea during the first wave of an attack; he argues that South Korea needs larger and more mobile infantry forces if it hopes to counter these commandos successfully.

Wikner, N. "What the Hell is Kim Il-Sung Up To?" Armed Forces Journal International (Washington, D.C.), September 1984, pp. 94-106. U1.A66

North Korea's steady military buildup is viewed as a calculated effort on the part of North Korean leaders to make sure that their military forces could break through South Korean and US defenses along the DMZ. A comparison of North and South Korean forces gives the North a 4:1 advantage in artillery and a 2:1 advantage in tanks. The North is credited with the capability to attempt four simultaneous breakthrough operations with forces already deployed close to the DMZ.

Yong, Song Yim. "The Dynamics of North Korean Military Doctrine." In The Two Koreas in World Politics. Edited by Tae-Hwan Kwak in cooperation with Wayne Patterson and Edward A. Olsen. Seoul: Institute for Far Eastern Studies, Kyungnam University, 1983, pp. 103-127. DS917.37.T86

The author argues that North Korean leaders believe they will eventually reunify North and South Korea through a protracted guerrilla war rather than a short conventional one. To support this argument, he discusses Kim Il-Sung's teachings on wars of national liberation and points to the heavy emphasis on guerrilla warfare training in the North Korean Army. That North Korea has attempted to maintain conventional military superiority is attributed to its fear of US military power and its desire to limit dependence on the Soviet Union and China.